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SHEAFFER JEANNE M  
78 MONTEVIDEO 1847

195

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCF-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 F-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 HA-05 TRSE-00 IO-13 AID-05 /103 W

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R 061432Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6579

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 4. LINE 3. OMIT LAST

WORD "NOT")

USEFC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SFUM, UY

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS CASE OF WASHINGTON DE VARGAS SACCONF

REF: MONTEVIDEO 1660 (NOTAL)

1. POLITICAL DETAINEE WASHINGTON DE VARGAS SACCONF RESURFACED  
LAST WEEK FOLLOWING HIS HOSPITALIZATION AND SUBSEQUENT DIS-  
APPEARANCE WHILE IN CUSTODY OF GOU SECURITY FORCES  
(REFTEL). REPORTS FROM HIS FAMILY, WHO WERE PERMITTED TO

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070514Z

VISIT HIM AT LIBERT

, INDICATE THAT HE IS IN MORE OR  
ALTHOUGH HIS FACE SHOWED EVIDENCE  
MISSING.

LESS SATISFACTORY C

OF BEATING AND A TC.

2. DE VARGAS WAS SC

FOR RELEASE ON 21 MAY 1978 AT THE

COMPLETION OF HIS SENTENCE FOR FORMING AN ILLEGAL

GROUP, OFFENSES AGAINST THE CONSTITUTION, AND ACTS PREPARA-

TORY (TO A CRIME). HOWEVER, GOU AUTHORITIES REPORTEDLY

ASSERT THAT, BECAUSE HE WAS RELEASED ON PROVISIONAL LIBERTY

FOR A PERIOD OF FOUR YEARS BEGINNING ON 14 DECEMBER 1973,

HE STILL HAS FOUR YEARS LEFT TO SERVE OF A SIX-YEAR SENTENCE.

THUS HE WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR RELEASE UNTIL MAY 1982. NO

FURTHER OFFICIAL MENTION HAS BEEN MADE OF GOU SUSPICIONS THAT

DE VARGAS PARTICIPATED IN THE MURDER OF TWO HOSPITAL GUARDS

IN 1970 OR 1971.

3. COMMENT: SINCE AT LEAST LAST OCTOBER THE GOU HAS

CONSISTENTLY HELD TO THE STORY OF DE VARGAS'S RELEASE ON

PROVISIONAL LIBERTY. HOWEVER, IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT

FOLLOWING HIS ARREST IN MAY 1972 HE HAS NEVER BEEN FREED

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|                                                                                                 |                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR                                                                    |                     |
| REVIEWED BY <u>J. Man</u>                                                                       | DATE <u>8/29/80</u> |
| RDS <input type="checkbox"/> or XDS <input type="checkbox"/> EXT. DATE _____                    |                     |
| TS AUTH. _____                                                                                  | REASON(S) _____     |
| ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS <input type="checkbox"/>                                              |                     |
| DECLASSIFIED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R ELASABLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                     |
| RELEASE DENIED <input type="checkbox"/>                                                         |                     |
| PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____                                                                      |                     |

03:15:00:00

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FOR EVEN A SHORT TIME, MUCH LESS FOUR YEARS. STORY IS AN APPARENT PUSE TO JUSTIFY HIS FURTHER DETENTION, MADE NECESSARY BY HIS INABILITY TO PROVE DE VARGAS'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE HOSPITAL GUARDS' MURDER, OR TO EXTRACT A CONFESSION FROM HIM.

4. IN ADDITION TO U.S. CONCERN, CASE IS OF HIGH INTEREST TO THE BRITISH AND THE AUSTRIANS, WITH VIRTUALLY ALL EUROPEAN EMBASSIES HERE ACQUAINTED WITH IT TO SOME DEGREE. IT IS THEREFORE, LIKELY THAT THE CASE WILL ATTRACT SAME LEVEL OF INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION AND PROTEST WHICH THE GOU INSPIRED THROUGH THEIR HANDLING OF THE RICARDO VILARÓ SANGUINETTI CASE (MONTEVIDEO 1504).

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5. EMBASSY WILL APPRECIATE BEING NOTIFIED BY INFO POSTS OF ANY LOCAL RESPONSE TO DE VARGAS CASE.

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